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Shelton State Courier

Issue 96

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Future Issues

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Lady Bucs have to settle for second place at state

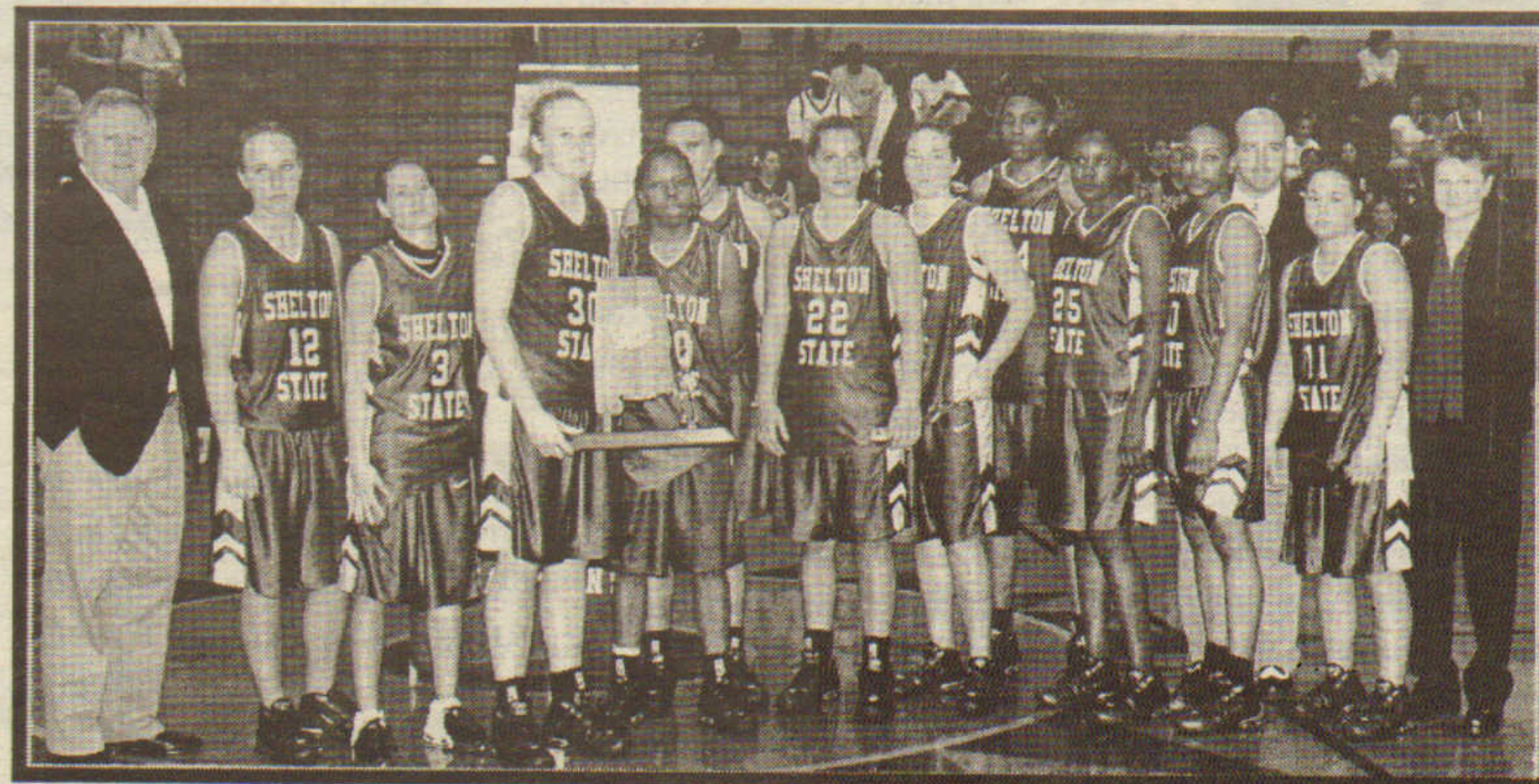
By Kim West

BAY MINETTE — Despite winning 25 games and going undefeated at home, the Shelton State Lady Bucs' season came to a disappointing end as No. 1-ranked Northwest-Shoals halted the Lady Bucs' effort to win back-to-back state championships and a return trip to the national tournament.

The Lady Patriots (21-11) defeated No. 2 Shelton State 87-69 in the AJCCC/Region XXII Division II title game on March 2 at Jack Robertson Arena to win their third championship in five years.

"They played college basketball, and we didn't," Shelton State coach Madonna Thompson said. "I just think that they have their act together and are playing extremely well right now."

Despite shooting nearly 55



Although they were not too happy about it, the Lady Buca accepted the runner-up trophy from AJCC athletic commissioner Bobby Skelton.

Photo by Teresa Golson

percent from the field, the Lady Bucs were outrebounded 52-32 and turned the ball over 21 times as Northwest-Shoals took over midway through the first-half and led 48-32 at halftime.

With the Lady Patriots controlling the boards and getting several easy fast break lay-ups, they led by as many 27 points in the second half.

"Those were the two big-

gest factors in the game, and that's why we lost," Thompson said. "They got the banner and the tro-

Lady Bucs cont'd on pg. 4

Premier arts event at Shelton March 15

By Jonathan King

On March 15 two very deserving people will be honored by the Alabama Stage and Screen Hall of Fame for their talent and contributions to the entertainment industry. These two men are the legendary Nat King Cole, and the Emmy award winning director Tom Cheronos. When looking back on their accomplishments, it is not hard to see why they received induction.

Cole, one of the most well known jazz musicians and pianist in the twentieth century also helped shaped race relations in the television and movie industry into what it is now with a breakthrough television show that was the first to feature a black

host. Though he will be inducted into the Alabama Stage and Screen Hall of Fame this month for his work in television and movies, his many other talents made him one of the most well rounded artist of his time.

Cole was born in Montgomery, but grew up in Chicago. By the time he was 12-years-old he was playing organ and singing in church.

After making his recording debut with Eddie Cole's Solid Swingers in 1936, he left Chicago to lead the band for the revival of the revue Shuffle Along, and settled in Los Angeles when the show ended. Cole

Premier cont'd on pg. 3



Spring is in the air

Freshman Rebecca Tweedy throws a pitch during the Lady Buccaneer's game against Central Alabama on Feb. 20. The Lady Bucs began their season on Feb. 15. Bucs baseball began on Feb. 18.

Photo by Jason Cellins

Our Middle East Answer Man

By Salih Alamassy



Salih Alamassy is a student at Shelton State

My life is a really long story like any one of yours. The only difference in mine is that it took place in different places of the world. Traveling wasn't my choice, but also I can't blame my father, because he had to take care of his family no matter how or where.

I was raised in the middle of a big family, with six males and one female. My father is an engineer, but my mother didn't finish her college because of her first child, my oldest brother.

The journey of my life started in a strange country and

that was just the beginning. I was born in 1982, in Basra, the capital of Iraq. It was the most progressive Arabic country and it was full of knowledge. My father decided to move the family from there and leave the house and all that we owned back there because of the war between Iraq and its neighbor country, Iran. The United States government didn't have any problem with that war like it had when Iraq had its war with Kuwait.

We moved to Egypt, where I spent most of my childhood. I went to school till the third grade and then my father took the family to Saudi Arabia where he was offered a very good job. It was very fun living in Jeddah on the west coast where you can enjoy swimming on the beach almost every day of the year. My sister and my mom both enjoyed swimming with us too. Being females doesn't mean that they

weren't allowed to swim.

I finished high school and then I chose the U.S. to have my education. I didn't choose my destiny nor my father, but being in all these countries gave me some insight about what is going on.

Why are Muslims so devoted to their religion?

What is the Palestinian view of the mess in Israel?

What will happen when the United States attacks Iraq?

These—or any other questions—are fair game for the answer man.

If you would like to ask a question of someone who has lived in Iraq, Egypt, Saudi Arabia—as well as Israel, call 391-2406, or e-mail courier@shelton.cc.al.us. We will select one or two questions each time to answer in this space over the next few issues.

Off the Shelf . . .

By Glen Johnson

New works available in the Brooks-Cork Library

On the Best-Seller Shelf...

Following on her Pulitzer Prize and National Book Award, Annie Proulx, in her latest novel *That Old Ace in the Hole*, moves the scene to the Texas-Oklahoma panhandle and introduces us to Bob Dollar, a young man bent on securing land for hog farms to supply Global Pork Rind, Inc. But Bob D. Appears to have bitten off more than he can chew when he meets the likes of Ace and Tater Crouch.

It's June 1941 and in Ken Follett's *Hornet Flight* England's RAF is sending wave after wave of bombers across the channel to Germany only to see them shot down with uncanny regularity by the

Luftwaffe. Meanwhile on a small Danish island in the North Sea, young Harald Olafsen discovers a German military installation with machinery like he has never seen before. Are the two connected? Hmmmm.....

In 1873 young John Henry Holliday was diagnosed with consumption and told he had six months to live.

Leaving his genteel family in Georgia, Holliday went out West, started a small practice as a dentist, picked up the nickname "Doc", and proceeded to become a gun-slinging legend. Bruce Olds' bio-novel *Bucking the Tiger* gives a compelling image of Doc Holliday as a man singularly unsuited to the environment in which he flourished for more than 15 years.

"Keep Looking Up!"

By Dr. Lee Albritton

One is starting to notice—particularly in the deep south—that winter is losing its grip.

For several weeks now, flowering shrubs are starting to bloom; the red bud and the pear trees are particularly beautiful at present.

What is causing this to happen and when is winter officially over?

It all has to do with the heavens and our clear planet Earth. Heavenly bodies rotate or spin on their axis. In the case of the planets, the axis is tilted so many degrees from vertical.

It takes Earth 24 hours, of course, a day to rotate one time, and our axis is tilted 23.5 de-

grees.

This means that as we orbit the Sun there will be a day when our tilt is exactly towards the Sun.

This is the Summer Solstice—the first day of summer and the longest day of the year in the northern hemisphere.

Six months later is the Winter Solstice—the first day of winter and the shortest day of the year since the tilt is away from the Sun.

After the Winter Solstice, days start getting longer again, and since it is almost three months after the Solstice, the days are getting fairly long, warming up planet Earth and



My heavens, it's spring!

plants are starting to bud.

Exactly half way between the Solstices, in three months, the Sun is directly over Earth's equator, and these two days are referred to as the equinoxes.

The autumnal or fall equinox is the first day of fall and the vernal or spring equinox is the first day of spring.

On March 20 at 7 p.m. CST, the Sun will be directly above the equator—the Vernal Equinox—and spring will officially begin.

Keep looking up—catch the sunset on March 20—and watch the Sun set exactly due west on the horizon, since it is directly above Earth's equator.

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The *Shelton State Courier* is a "campus newspaper" written and produced with the help of students.

Among other functions, it is intended as a vehicle for student expression, and all students are urged to participate with submissions of written and artistic material.

The college seeks to fulfill the statement for academic freedom in working with the students in the production of this paper:

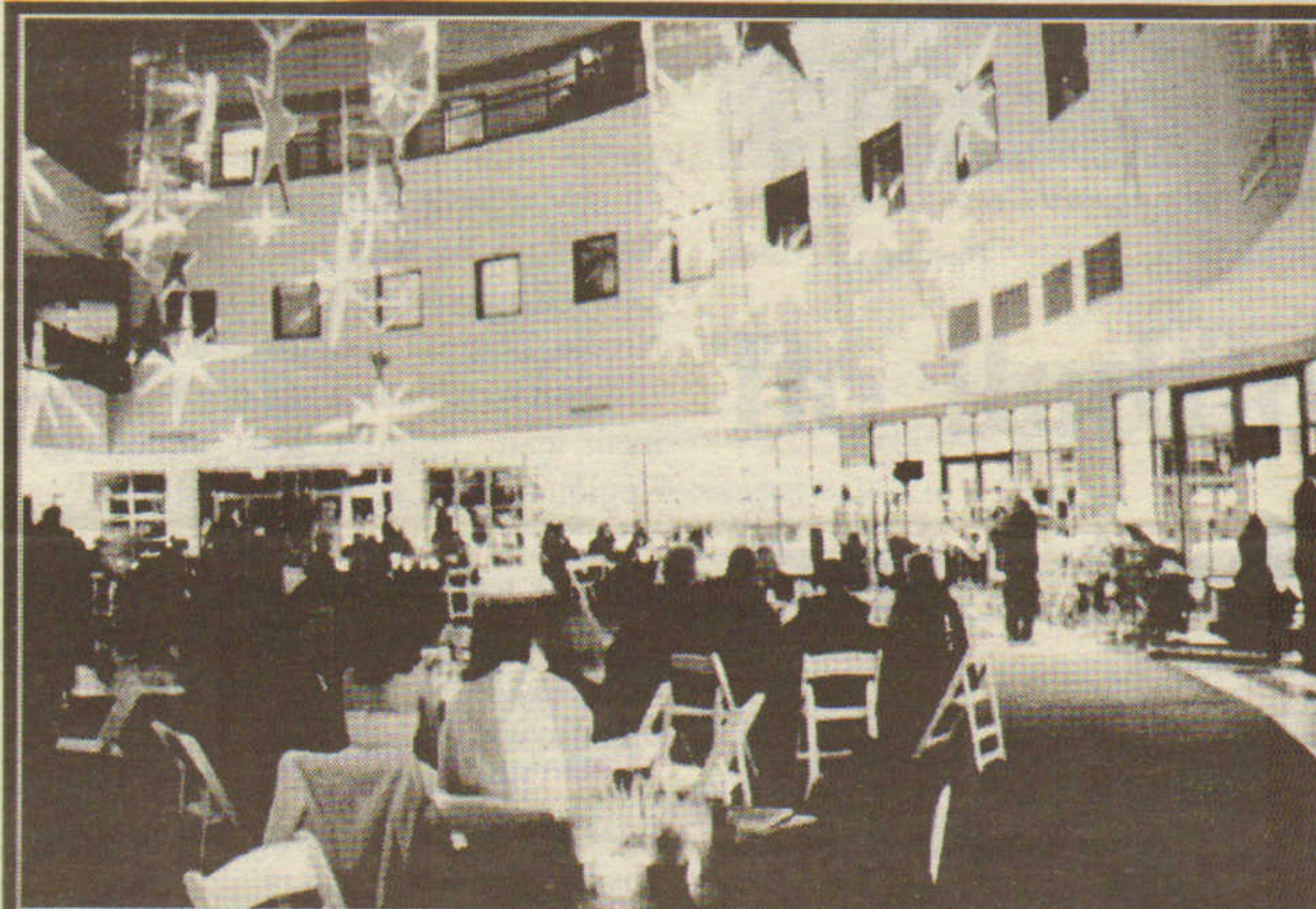
"The college seeks to provide an atmosphere conducive to open and honest intellectual inquiry in any college forum which is appropriate for dialogue and student participation. The students should feel free to exercise the right to dissent within limits of decorum and good taste."

All publications are subject to review by the Publications Action Group, which has been delegated the responsibility to review all college publications for content and accuracy.

The *Courier* is an equal opportunity employer and student organization. All students are encouraged to participate.

The stars shine bright at the Gala

Man-made and entertainment-produced stars fill the halls of Shelton State each year for the gala of the Stage and Screen Hall of Fame. In recent gala scenes (L-R, top to bottom) Theatre Tuscaloosa Director Emeritus Paul Looney hugs actor Mary Badham who played Scout in *To Kill a Mockingbird*; Shelton students get in on the fun by portraying film characters; Broadway star Rebecca Luker watched herself being inducted in the Bean-Brown Theatre; the Shelton atrium is aglow with the handiworks of star artists and librarian-actor Glen Johnson lends a jaunty air to the proceedings one year by donning the costume he wore as the devil in the college's production of *Damn Yankees*.



Premier cont'd from pg. 1

struggled a bit, put together a trio with guitarist Oscar Moore and bassist Wesley Prince and eventually settled in for a long residency in Hollywood.

In the early days (documented on radio transcriptions), most of the group's repertoire was comprised of instrumentals, although the trio often sang jivey novelty vocals together.

However, by the time the trio had its first opportunity to record for Decca in December 1940, Nat King Cole had gained more confidence in his own singing. "Sweet Lorraine" resulted from that session and the trio soon became quite popular.

Cole recorded a great deal of exciting jazz during the 1940s including dates featuring Lester Young and Illinois Jacquet, the first Jazz at the Philharmonic concert (1944) and a countless number of selections for Capitol with his trio. Although his singing began to be-

come quite popular by the mid '40s (and particularly after "The Christmas Song" and "Nature Boy"), Cole mostly performed with his Trio during this era; Johnny Miller took over on bass and in 1947 Irving Ashby became the guitarist. Nat Cole was open to the influence of bop and in 1949 started utilizing Jack Costanzo on bongo and conga for some songs. However, his career changed permanently in early 1950 with the recording of "Mona Lisa" which became a number one hit.

During the 1950s and '60s, he mostly recorded pop ballads, although there were a few exceptions (including 1956's *After Midnight* album) and he never lost his ability to play stimulating jazz.

During 1956-57, Cole hosted his own TV show (some of which has been released on video) which was a breakthrough for race relations in television. The show did, however, have problems gaining sponsors because of the race factors. Even in a time of heated racial

debates in this nation, the popularity of his records and public appearances remained at a remarkable level and the world mourned Nat King Cole's death from lung cancer in early 1965 at the relatively young age of 47.

Tom Cheronos, the man who produced or directed the first 86 episodes of *Seinfeld*, the most successful situation comedy in the history of television, got his first broadcasting job at The University of Alabama. "I was working at the A&P in Tuscaloosa, but I was looking for something more interesting," Tom Cheronos remembers. "When I started at University TV, my pay fell from about 80 cents an hour to 40 cents an hour."

Cheronos grew up in downtown Tuscaloosa. His grandfather immigrated to the United States from Greece and opened the Tuscaloosa Cafe on Broad Street (now University Boulevard). His father was a maintenance engineer at WTBC and operated a radio and TV repair shop in Tuscaloosa.

His first jobs in television may

have made him wistful for the glamour of the A&P. "We swept floors, we moved sets, we did everything," Cheronos recalls about working in the TV studios on the second floor the Old Union building — now Reese Phifer Hall. "I worked on *Chemistry Can Be Fun* with George Toffel, and eventually I was directing productions at the University."

Cheronos finished his undergraduate work at the University of New Mexico and after serving as producer and director in Pittsburgh at WQED, one of public television's flagship stations, he returned to The University of Alabama where he earned a master's degree in telecommunication and film in 1976. He served as a lieutenant in the U.S. Navy from 1961 to 1965 where, after duty at sea, he was, among other things, assigned to make motion pictures of explosions.

In 1975 Cheronos moved to Hollywood. His first job was production manager for General Hospital, and since 1975 he has been an independent producer and director for Warner Brothers, ABC-TV, CBS-

Premier cont'd on pg. 6



Sports

—The Buccaneers are Here to Play—



Sophomore Crystal Roberts bats during the Lady Bucs game against Central Alabama on Feb. 20.

Photo by Jason Collins

Fast-pitch softball off to another fast start

With a 5-1 start, the Lady Buccaneer softball team is poised for another good season. "We are just playing the game like it is supposed to be played. Our girls have goals and they know what they have to do," commented Coach Melissa Bautista. "Our team goal is to win state this year after being so close last year, and we have the talent and the heart to accomplish it."

Since an opening-game loss of 6-4 to Central Alabama, the team has reeled off five straight wins, taking Central 8-5 in its second game of the

season.

In a pair of pitching duels, the Lady Bucs beat Southern Union 2-0 and 1-0.

Most recently, the team beat Central Alabama 7-6 and 2-0.

Four of the Buc batters are hitting over .300 this young season. Sarah Farmer has gone two-for-four, but it is Amy Busing who is really leading the way, with 11 hits already and a hefty .478 batting average. Traci Green and Teresa Stephens are also proving to have a good eye so far.

But it is the squad's sound fundamentals which are impressing the coach.

Lady Bucs cont'd from pg. 1

phy, and we're just going to have to live it."

Shelton State used a late run that forced Northwest-Shoals to slow down their offense, but the Lady Patriots went to a slow-down, ball-control strategy and ran out the clock.

Four Northwest-Shoals players finished in double-figures, including tournament MVP Sheree Thompson, who had 25 points, nine rebounds and eight assists.

Marquitta Hillman led the Lady Bucs with 21 points and three steals. Laura Rombokas added 12 points, and Nicole Thomas had 10. Thomas and Hillman were named to the All-Tournament team. Jennifer West earned All-Region honors, along with Hillman.

This was the third meeting between the two teams, with each winning at home during the regular season. Shelton State and Northwest-Shoals have combined to win the last five state Division II titles. They didn't meet in last year's final because the Lady Patriots were upset in the semifinals.

The Lady Bucs finish the season

25-7, including 14-0 at home and 11-4 in the conference.

Six players return for Shelton State, including Rombokas, the team's second-leading scorer.

"Hopefully, some of the hatred of being in second place will rub off on them between now and next year," Thompson said.

The five sophomores (Hillman, Thomas, West, Leanne Williams and Ashlee Parker) end their junior college careers with one state championship and a perfect record at home the past two years.

"I think we had a very successful season, and this a great group of kids. They've worked hard and won 25 ball games this year," Thompson said. "I love them as a group and they've done everything I've ever asked them to do."

"I just wish it could've ended on a better note. But I guess that's the game, that's what happens. Since I've been here, nobody's won [state] back-to-back and I guess it's going to continue that way."

And that's something Northwest-Shoals will need to remember next season.

Tweedy has struck out 14 batters so far, and Winton nine.

The two hurlers have pitched in every inning so far this year, with each racking up 21 innings.

The Bucs' next home twinbill is scheduled for 1 p.m., March 6, versus Meridian.

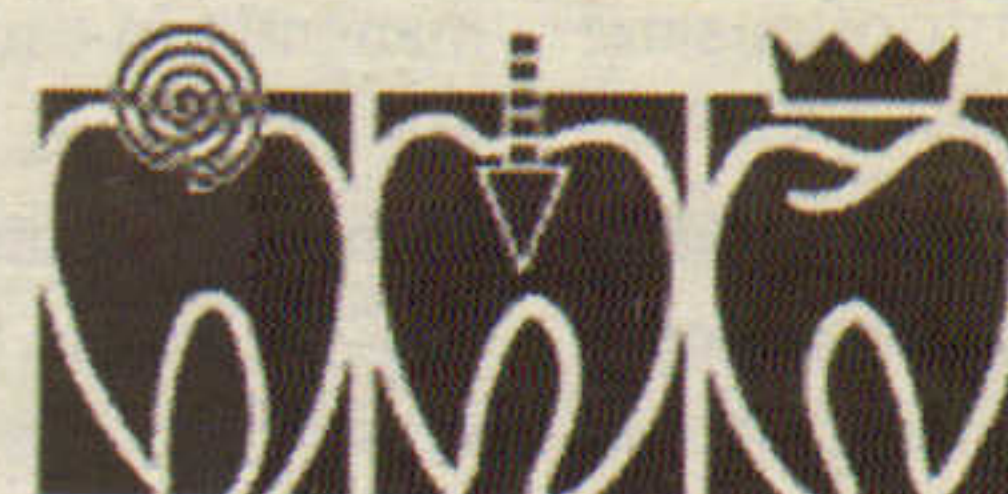
Bucs end season, about to take on state tournament

By Robert Milz

The Bucs regular season ended on Feb. 27 with a win of 95-68, against Jeff Davis. The Bucs are now on the road at the state tournament.

The tournament is set to begin on March 6 and continue through March 8, at Faulkner State Community College. Coach Mohun and asst. Coach Tim Law both seemed prepared for the tournament.

The Bucs beat Bevil-Fayette 137-66, for a spectacular ending home game on Feb. 22. On Feb. 24 the Bucs lost to Lawson St. 71-100. Now, all that is left for the Bucs to accomplish is bringing home the state championship trophy.



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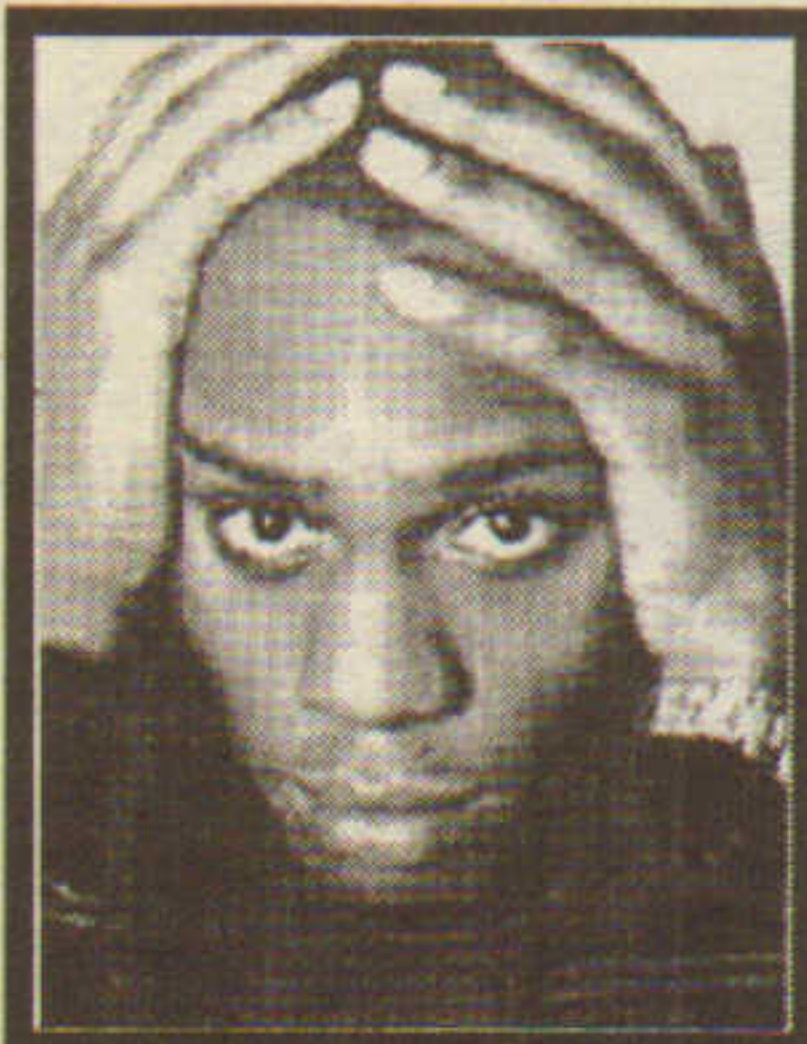
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Courier's dang-near exclusive interview with Dave Chappelle

By Jonathan King

Not too long ago, the *Courier* was given the opportunity to join a conference interview with the newest member of the Comedy Central lineup, Dave Chappelle. The network wanted to give college students the chance to ask the popular comedian about his new show, about his career as an actor and anything else they wished.



Chappelle gives it from the heart on his Comedy Central show

hour show might be murder!

Student: What part of your stand-up career helps you with the show?

Dave: It is so close to stand-up, because you are involved in all the writing and the jokes and skits. In the industry, it is the closest you come to stand-up.

Student: What is hardest about going from stand-up to television comedy?

Dave: Television is a much more corporate lifestyle. There are many people involved, as opposed to stand-up, where you write everything and it is all your stuff out there.

Student: How do you plan to deal with issues that are hot topics in America right now on the show?

Dave: My stuff is very opinionated. Because there is so much going on right now, I have to turn light on it. You know everybody is thinking about it, and comedians kind of allow people a little relief from it by making fun of the situation. People feel a release from the stress of a situation if they can laugh about it. It's just like I am on stage doing stand-up, in a way. I kind of just feel my way through it. I know some things are just straight up inappropriate, and I'm sensitive to those things, but there is not much that I won't bring up in my comedy. I am not going to reinvent the comedy wheel and use all the same old jokes. There are a lot of shows that couldn't do the skits I do. I want people to have a good time watching my show, and at the same time I have a certain point of view I want to get across.

Student: What do you have to say to upcoming comedians?

Dave: You have to go from your heart. What seems to be happening now is that everybody wants to go for the big deals, and make big bucks right off. When I first started, it was all small stuff. I remember my first and only job before comedy was at a toy store. I had to do all the junk nobody else wanted to do. After I made my first \$50 as a stand-up, I quit. When you start small, it's also easier to say what you want to say when you're up there. But main thing, just go from your heart.

I spoke with Chappelle along with eight other students from schools around the nation. Every student involved was given a number to connect to a conference phone call with Chappelle. Chappelle was very down to earth. He spoke to us as if he were talking to old friends, and answered in great detail every question that was asked. This is how it went:

King: Hi, Dave, this is Jonathan King at Shelton State Community College.

Dave: Hi, Jonathan. How ya doin'?

King: First, how do you plan fill the vacancies without having a cast, while doing sketches? Second, do you plan on having stars do cameos on your shows, or possibly co-hosting shows?

Dave: Well, there is never going to be a regular cast, no 'official' cast. That makes it a little bit easier really, because we don't have to write parts for a person. If we think of a skit (Chappelle is one of the two writers for the show), we write it then we think of the person that would fit the part the best. If I want to write a 'Denzel' character, then I write it and after that I find the perfect person for it. Then we just call 'em up and ask them if they'll do it.

Student: How long have you been thinking about putting a show together?

Dave: Since 1992. Those ten years I just didn't want to do a show. The only thing I have not done is cable, but I didn't want to do a network show. Not to say that those are bad. They're just not for me.

Student: Have you ever thought of expanding the show from 30 minutes to an hour?

Dave: There is a lot of work involved in an hour show. You have to write it, cast it, and then do it. I really would love for it to be an hour, but I think that an

Shelton to host blood drive

The Shelton State Community College nursing program is teaming up with United Blood Services, which supplies DCH Hospital, for their annual blood drive on March 10 and March 11 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in rooms D1-D3, near the Campus Grill on the Martin Campus.

"Ninety-five percent of the population will need blood or blood products supplied for them at some point in time, but only five percent donate blood," Shelton State nursing instructor Jackie Williams said.

This year's donation goal for the drive is 100 units of blood. The UBS requests that all donors be at least 17 years old and weigh 110 pounds. Blood can be given every 56 days. If you plan to donate, please bring your driver's license.

Door prizes donated from local businesses will be given out, along with pizza coupons and free T-shirts. Smoothie King will be giving out free samples on the first day of the drive at noon.

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Royal Academy of Dance exams to be held

On March 10 and March 11 Shelton State will host the Royal Academy of Dance Examinations. Sixty students from the Shelton State Department of Dance Pre-College Division aged six through 17 will be involved as well as students from Jackson, Miss.

The examinations will be conducted by Merle Sepel. Originally from South Africa, Sepel is one of eight examiners resident in the United States and will be conducting examinations all over the South-East this spring with Tuscaloosa the first stop on her tour.

The Royal Academy of Dance is the most prestigious organization in the world devoted to the teaching of classical ballet and operates in over 80 countries.

Shelton State has participated in the examination program every year since 1990.

Two students who have been with the Dance Department for most of its existence will be completing their examination sequence this session.

Julie Viselli (Holy Spirit) and Carin Metzger (County High) have been with Shelton State since the age of four and this year will be taking their Grade 8 Award which (if successful) qualifies them for Student Membership in the R.A.D.

The Royal Academy of Dance exists to promote the very highest standards in the teaching of classical ballet and Shelton State is proud to be associated with it.

Premier cont'd from pg. 3

TV, Paramount, Lorimar and Mary Tyler Moore Productions. He was also the production manager of *Welcome Back Kotter*. In 1980 he wrote and produced a movie, *Two of Hearts*, for cable and public television. He has directed and produced episodes of *Caroline in the City*, *Boston Common*, *Ellen*, *Growing Pains*, *News Radio*, and *Ladies Man*.

He has received the Director's Guild of America Outstanding Comedy Director Award for *Seinfeld*, an Emmy award for *Seinfeld*, a Golden Globe award, a Monitor award, The Peabody award, the People's Choice award, the TV Critics award and the Christopher award. He has also received six Emmy and three Directors Guild of America award nominations. In 1993 he was presented the UA College of Communication's Outstanding Alumnus award.

Shelton State presents Poetry in Music

As a part of Alabama's Junior College of the Fine Arts Jubilee Celebration of Excellence in the Arts, the Shelton Singers and members of the Shelton State Community College music and English faculty will showcase eight works of poetry during the Poetry in Music production on March 6 at 7:30 p.m. in the Bean-Brown Theatre.

The production, one of several activities focusing on the arts and humanities during the month of March, begins at 7:30 p.m. in the college's Bean-Brown Theatre. There is no cost to attend.

We want this to be an interdisciplinary event," said Glenda Blackshear, director of the Shelton Singers and chair of the event. "I try to select poetry which might be taught in some of Shelton's literature classes," says Blackshear.

"Then we ask the faculty members who are participating to research the poetry as well as the poet. During the concert, the poetry is read, together with a brief explanation and some background on the poet. The choir then sings the choral setting of the poetry."

Poetry to be showcased:

• **"Blow, Blow, Thou Winter Wind,"** by William Shakespeare, will be read by Alan Blackshear of the Shelton music department. The music is by John Ratter.

• Ric Dice of Shelton's English department will read **"Things that Never Die,"** by Charles Dickens. The music is by Lee Dengler.

• David Sandy of the English Department will read **"She Walks in Beauty,"** by Lord Byron. The music is by David Foltz.

• Angela Gibson of the speech department will read **"A Red, Red Rose,"** by Robert Burns. The music is by James Mulholland.

• **"The Cloths of Heaven,"** is written by William Butler Yeats and read by Glen Johnson of the Shelton State library staff. The music is by Z. Randall Stroope.

• **"Prairie Waters by Night,"** is written by Carl Sandburg and read by Michael Florence of the English department. The music is by John Leavitt.

• **"The Pasture and A Girl's Garden,"** written by Robert Frost, will be read by Susan Bamberg of the Shelton State English department. The music is by Randall Thompson.

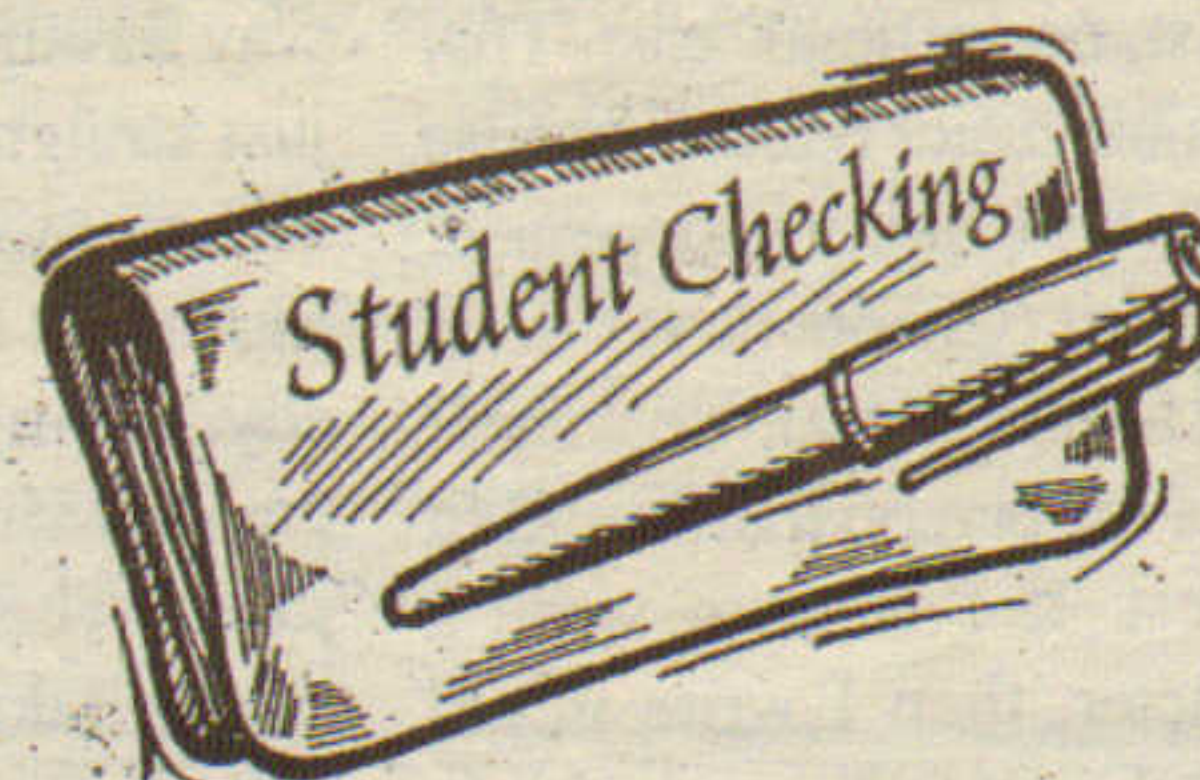
• Charles Dennis of the theatre department will read **"I Dream a World,"** by Langston Hughes. The music will be by Rosephanye Powell.

For additional information on the Poetry in Music concert, call 391-2344.

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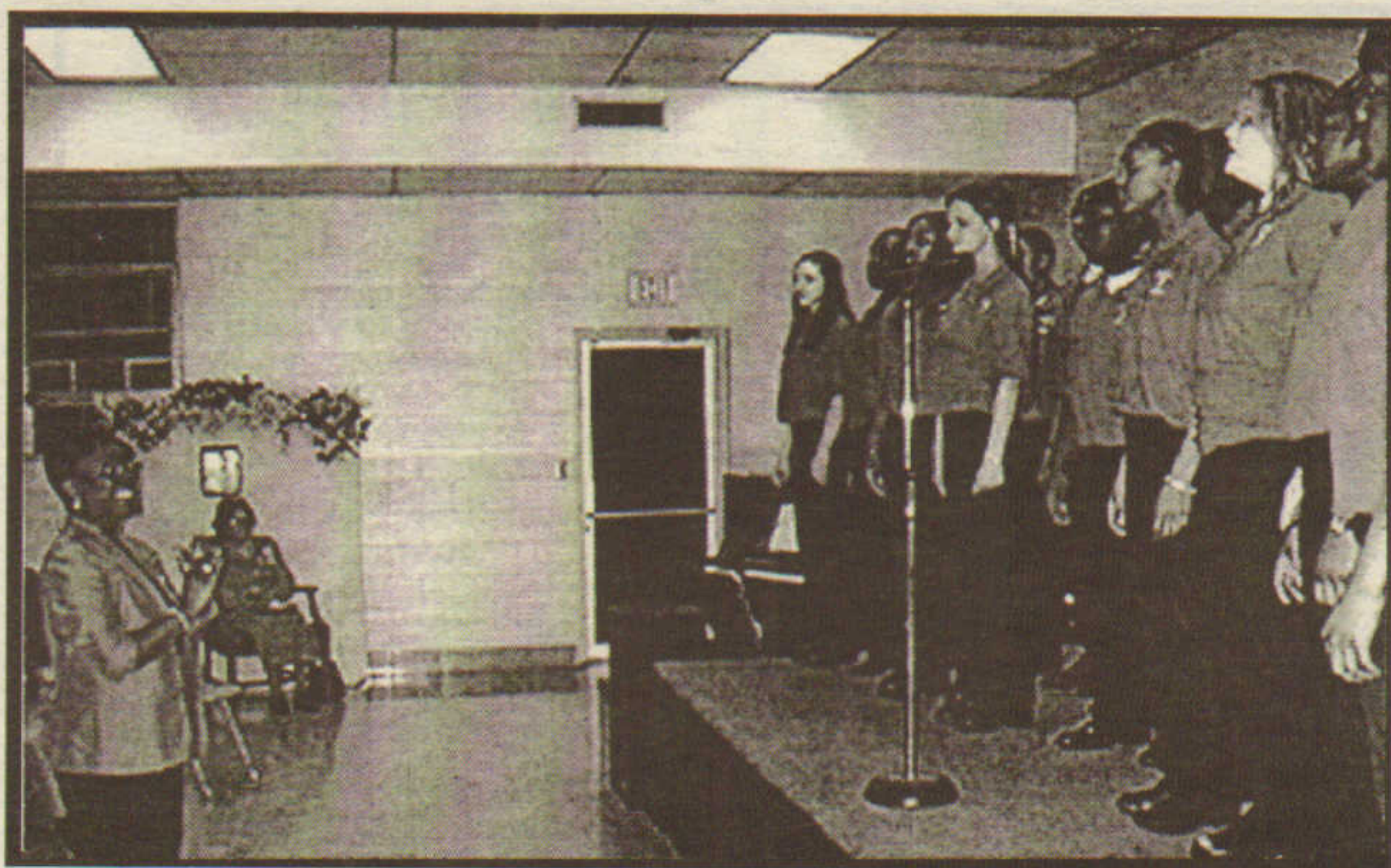
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Among the performers paying homage to Zelpha Wells on the Fredd campus was the chorus from Central West, who electrified the audience with a dynamic performance of Duke Ellington's "It Don't Mean a Thing"

Zelpha Wells's tribute: short, sweet and poignant

According to comments made at the serving table on the Fredd campus Friday evening, Feb. 28, the tribute to Zelpha Wells was one of the most pleasant and successful events ever held on either the Fredd or Martin campus. And it was all done within an hour.

Following along to the biographical narration by Philip Coleman, a string of entertainers kept the event moving along.

The musical tributes began with a hymn by a choral group from the First Presbyterian Church, in recognition of Wells's musical roots there. Wells was taught by the church organist there.

Next up was the Central West Choir who represented Wells's years of giving to public school students in Tuscaloosa.

Pianist Adrian Bailey reprised a performance she made on the Oprah Winfrey Show in tribute to Wells.

The final bit of entertainment was a combo from the Shelton State Jazz Band. In keeping with Wells's jazz excellence, the group played a new number they had put together for the occasion.

After a moving tribute by Dr. Cordell Wynn and the mayor's office, the tribute to Wells ended with a delicious buffet provided by the food service program at the Fredd campus.

Faculty bones up on career technology

The Career Technology faculty at Shelton State attended a Performance Data Workshop on Feb. 28 as part of their professional development. Speakers for the workshop were Dr. Matthew Hughes, Coordinator of Career/Technical Education for Post Secondary Education, Montgomery and Dr. Bob Kimbell, Director of The Resource Center, Tuscaloosa.

The workshop was designed to increase faculty understanding of data requirements, reporting time lines, and improving data collection procedures in relation to the annual College Performance Plan. An overview of current and future Workforce Development was also presented.



Discussing technical matters at the professional development session are Dr. Matthew Hughes and Dr. Bob Kimbell

The group also reviewed an electronic portfolio software designed to keep track of student progress and student information.

SAMEDI Gras brought diverse people together

By Alyx Wolff

For one night on March 1, the Diamond Theatre once again sparkled with laughter, friendship, fun and charity. Now the streamers are down, the beads have been worn, and calm has once again settled on the Diamond Theatre. SAMEDI Gras has come and gone, leaving in its wake generosity, memories and new friendships.

According to one committee member, "This year's SAMEDI Gras made approximately \$3,005 for charity. We really appreciate all the sponsors, volunteers and people who joined us for the night." There were 40 sponsors of SAMEDI Gras this year, including Jonathan's Pet Grooming, Stephanie's Flowers, and Buddy's Food Mart.

Carole Hill, a professor at Shelton State, went to SAMEDI Gras for the first time this year. Hill said, "The entertainment, food and company were excellent. Had I been in any other group of people I would have been ducking bullets, listening

to profanity and watching fights. The picture of the event is in my office; now everyone wants to know what my preference is. What's the difference what my preference is? Most of us profess to be culturally diverse, but we are not. I truly believe I am my brother's keeper; and I am culturally diverse. We all need to stop being so homophobic and get on with the business of the day. Live and let live; love and let love. The affair was excellent." According to Hill, she will be at SAMEDI Gras next year.

While SAMEDI Gras may be over for this year, the goodwill it generates is not. According to one reveler, "Even though SAMEDI Gras is over, the new friendships that we have made and the community service that has been done will last much longer than one night of fun. Bringing many different people together is as important as anything else we may do."

SAMEDI Gras will be held next year at the Diamond Theatre on Feb. 21.

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